

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 9, 11, 30, 33, and 35 as follows:

9. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 4 to 8~~, comprising a base portion to which the impact force is applied and wherein the gripping means is movable with respect to the base portion in the direction of application of the impact force, the base portion urging the gripping means into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of the impact force.

11. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~9 or claim 10~~, wherein the base portion urges the gripping means into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of an impact force in one direction.

30. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~28 or claim 29~~, wherein the plurality of jaws comprises a plurality of teeth members that enhance the engagement of the jaws with the projecting portion of the valve actuating stem.

33. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in ~~any of claims 28 to 32~~, further comprising a base portion to which the impact force is applied and wherein the plurality of jaws are movable with respect to the base portion in the direction of application of the impact force, the base portion urging the plurality of jaws into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of the impact force.

35. (Currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim ~~33~~ or claim 34, wherein the base portion urges the plurality of jaws into engagement with the projecting valve actuating stem upon application of an impact force in one direction.

Please **ADD** the following claim 57:

57. (New) An apparatus for freeing a seized valve having an elongate valve actuating stem projecting out of the valve, the apparatus comprising:

means for enabling the repeated application of an impact force to the valve actuating stem alternately in opposite directions along its longitudinal axis;

gripping means for gripping and engaging with a projecting portion of the valve actuating stem; and

means enabling the closed jaws, when gripping the valve actuating stem, to be subjected to impact forces in a rotational direction relative to the longitudinal direction of the valve stem.

Please **CANCEL** claim 29 without prejudice or disclaimer.